

the Criminal Code, whether the United States, or "any person," be the intended victim. If, with intent to defraud, and by falsely assuming or pretending to be an officer or employé acting under the authority of the United States, the accused shall, in the pretended character, have demanded or obtained any money, paper, document, or other valuable thing, the offense is complete, notwithstanding some valuable consideration was offered or given by the pretended employé for that which he demanded or obtained. It is the aim of the section not merely to protect innocent persons from actual loss through reliance upon false assumptions of Federal authority, but to maintain the general good repute and dignity of the service itself. It is inconsistent with this object, as well as with the letter of the statute, to make the question whether one who has parted with his property upon the strength of a fraudulent representation of Federal employment, has received an adequate *quid pro quo* in value, determinative. Of course, we do not mean to intimate that it may not in a proper case be taken into consideration as a circumstance evidential upon the question of intent.

The judgment must be reversed, and the cause remanded for further proceedings in accordance with this opinion.

*Reversed.*

MR. JUSTICE McREYNOLDS took no part in the consideration or decision of this case.